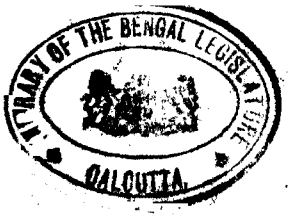
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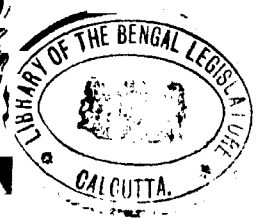


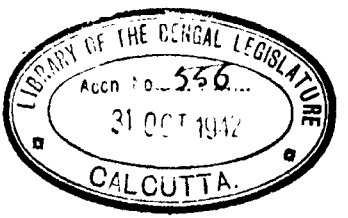
Assembly Proceedings

Official Report

Bengal Legislative Assembly

Twelfth Session, 1941

The 27th November and 8th, 9th, 12th, 16th, 17th and 18th December, 1941



Superintendent, Government Printing
Bengal Government Press, Alipore, Bengal
1942

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

His Excellency Sir JOHN ARTHUR HERBERT, G.C.I.E.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.*

(1) The Hon'ble Mr. ABUL KASEM FAZLUL HUQ, in charge of the Education Department.

(2) The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN, K.C.I.E., in charge of the Home Department.

(3) The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY, in charge of the Revenue Department.

(4) The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca, in charge of Public Health (including Medical) and Local Self-Government Departments.

(5) The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar, in charge of Communications and Works Department.

(6) The Hon'ble Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY, in charge of Finance, Commerce and Labour Departments.

(7) The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur, in charge of the Judicial and Legislative Departments.

(8) The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT, in charge of the Forests and Excise Departments.

(9) The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK, in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Departments.

(10) The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN, in charge of Agriculture and Industries (including Veterinary) and Rural Reconstruction Departments.

*Resignation accepted by His Excellency the Governor on the 7th December, 1941 (*vide* Home Department notification No. 1784 A. R., dated the 7th December, 1941.)

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

His Excellency Sir JOHN ARTHUR HERBERT, G.C.I.E.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.*

(1) The Hon'ble Mr. ABUL KASEM FAZLUL HUQ, in charge of the Home and Publicity Departments.

(2) The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE, in charge of the Finance Department.

(3) The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca, in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries.

(4) The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU, in charge of the Department of Public Health and Local Self-Government.

(5) The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM, in charge of the Education Department and of the Department of Commerce and Labour.

(6) The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE, in charge of the Revenue Department and of the Judicial and Legislative Departments.

(7) The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN, in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department.

(8) The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED, in charge of the Department of Communications and Works.

(9) The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN, in charge of the Forest and Excise Department.

Vide Home Department Notification No. 1827 A. R., dated the 17th December, 1941.

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SPEAKER.

The Hon'ble Sir MUHAMMAD AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E., Khan Bahadur

DEPUTY SPEAKER.

M. ASHRAFALI, Esq., Barrister-at-law.

SECRETARY.

K. ALI AFZAL, Esq., Barrister-at-law.

FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

Rai N. N. SEN GUPTA Bahadur.

SECOND ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

Khan Sahib QUAZI MUHAMMAD SADRUL OLA.

REGISTRAR.

A. B. CHATERJI, Esq.

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

A

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md. [Narayanganj East (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza. [Tangail West (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hafiz Mia, Mr. [Kurigram South (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hakeem, Mr. [Khulna (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hakim, Maulvi. [Mymensingh West (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md. [Munshiganj (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M. [Pabna West (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hamid Shah, Maulvi. [Kishoreganj North (Muhammadan).]

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Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed. [Noakhali South (Muhammadan).]

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Abdur Raschid Mahmood, Mr. [Serajganj North (Muhammadan).]

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Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Shah. [Rangpur South (Muhammadan).]

Abdur Razzak, Maulvi. [Feni (Muhammadan).]

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Abul Fazl, Mr. Muhammad [Madaripur West (Muhammadan).]

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Acharyya Choudhury, Maharaja Sashi Kanta, of Muktagacha, Mymensingh. (Dacca Landholders)

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Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed. [Noakhali South (Muhammadan.)]

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Aminullah, Khan Sahib Maulvi. [Noakhali Central (Muhammadan).]

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Ashraf Ali, Mr. M. [Nator (Muhammadan).]

Asimuddin Ahmed, Mr. [Tippera Central (Muhammadan).]

Aulad Hossain Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Manikganj East (Muhammadan).]

Azhar Ali, Maulvi. [Pabna East (Muhammadan).]

Azizul Haque, the Hon'ble Sir Muhammad, C.I.E., Khan Bahadur. [Nadia West (Muhammadan).]

B

Badrudduja, Mr. Syed. [Berhampore (Muhammadan.)]

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Banerjee, Mr. Sibnath. [Howrah (Registered Factories).]

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Barma, Mr. Puspajit. [Rangpur (General).]
Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad. [Dinajpur (General).]
Barman, the Hon'ble Mr. Upendra Nath. [Jalpaiguri *cum* Siliguri (General).]
Basu, Mr. Jatindra Nath. [Calcutta North (General).]
Basu, the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar. [Calcutta East (General).]
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Bhowmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra. [Midnapore East (General).]
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Biswas, Babu Lakshmi Narayan. [Nadia (General).]
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal. [Jessore (General).]
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath. [Faridpur (General).]
Bose, Mr. Sarat Chandra . [Calcutta South (General).]

C

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Chakrabarty, Babu Narendra Narayan. [Bogra *cum* Pabna (General).]
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Clark, Mr. I. A. [Burdwan Division (European).]

D

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Das, Mr. Anukul Chandra. [24-Parganas North-West (General).]
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E

Edbar, Mr. Upendranath. [Bakarganj South-West (General).]

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F

Farhad Raza Chowdhury, Mr. M. [Jangipur (Muhammadan).]

Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum. [Dacca (Muhammadan) Women].

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Fazlur Rahman, Mr. [Jamalpur East (Muhammadan).]

Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca University.)

G

Ganguly, Mr. Pratul Chandra. [East Bengal Municipal (General).]

Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna. [Jessore (General).]

Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr. [Jamalpur West (Muhammadan).]

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Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh. [Darjeeling (General).]

Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Al-Hadj. [Madaripur East (Muhammadan).]

H

Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca. [Dacca Municipal (Muhammadan).]

Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi. [Thakurgaon (Muhammadan).]

Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib. [Kishoreganj East (Muhammadan).]

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Hasanuzzaman, Maulvi Md. [Tippera South (Muhammadan).]

Hashem Ali Khan, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Bakarganj North (Muhammadan).]

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Hatemally Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi. [Pirojpur South (Muhammadan).]

Hawkings, Mr. R. J. [Calcutta and Suburbs (European).]

Haywood, Mr. Rogers. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

Hendry, Mr. David. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

Hodge, Mr. H. R. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

I

Idris Ahmed Mia, Mr. [Malda South (Muhammadan).]

Ispahani, Mr. M. A. H., M.B.E. [Calcutta South (Muhammadan).]

J

Jalaluddin Ahmad, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Cox's Bazar (Muhammadan).]

Jalaluddin Hashemy, Mr. Syed. [Satkhira (Muhammadan).]

Jalan, Mr. I. D. [Calcutta West (General).]

Jasimuddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib Maulvi. [24-Parganas South (Muhammadan).]

Jopab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi. [Chandpur East (Muhammadan).]

K

Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Netrokona South (Muhammadan).]

Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syéd. [Murshidabad South-West (Muhammadan).]

Kennedy, Mr. I. G. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)

Khaitan, Mr. Debi Prosad. (Indian Chamber of Commerce.)

Khan, Mr. Debendra Lall. [Midnapore Central (General).]

Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra. [Malda (General).]

Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath. [Dinajpur (General).]

L

Lahiri, Babu Ashutosh. [North Bengal Municipal (General).]

M

MacGregor, Mr. G. G. (Indian Tea Association.)

MacPherson, Mr. G. P. [Rajshahi Division (European).]

Mafizuddin Ahmed, Dr. [Bogra North (Muhammadan).]

Mafizuddin Ahmed, Maulvi. [Tippera North (Muhammadan).]

Mafizuddin Choudhury, Maulvi. [Balurghat (Muhammadan).]

Maguire, Mr. L. T. (Anglo-Indian.)

Mahtab, Maharajadhiraja Bahadur Uday Chand, of Burdwan. [Burdwan Central (General).]

Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari. [Midnapore South-East (General).]

Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar. [Burdwan Central (General).]

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Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal. [Mymensingh West (General).]

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Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra. [Faridpur (General).]

Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra. [Tippera (General).]

Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath. [Bakarganj North-East (General).]

Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad. [Midnapore Central (General).]

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Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md. [Chittagong South Central (Muhammadan).]

Maqbul Hosain, Mr. [Tippera North-East (Muhammadan).]

Masud Ali Khan Panni, Al-Hadj Maulvi. [Tangail South (Muhammadan).]

Miles, Mr. C. W. (Indian Tea Association.)

Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur. [Bogra West (Muhammadan).]

Mohsin Ali, Mr. Md. [Meherpur (Muhammadan).]

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Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi. [Noakhali North (Muhammadan).]

Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi. [Bogra South (Muhammadan).]

Muhammad Israil, Maulvi. [Kishoreganj South (Muhammadan).]

Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed. [Bankura (Muhammadan).]

Muhammad Solaiman, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Barrackpore Municipal (Muhammadan).]

Mukerjea, Mr. Taraknath, M.B.E. [Burdwan Landholders' Constituency.]

Mukerji, Mr. Dhirendra Narayan. (Hooghly North-East.)

Mukherjee, Mr. B. [Colliery (Coal Mines) (Labour).]

Mukherji, Dr. H. C. [Calcutta *cum* Presidency Division (Indian Christian).]

Mukherji, Dr. Sharat Chandra. [Birbhum (General).]

Mullick, Srijut Ashutosh. [Bankura West (General).]

Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behari. [Khulna (General).]

Mullick, Mr. Pulin Behary. [Howrah (General).]

Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur. [Jalpaiguri *cum* Darjeeling (Muhammadan).]

Mustagawsal Haque. Mr. Syed. [Bagerhat (Muhammadan).]

Mustafa Ali Dewan, Maulvi. [Brahmanbaria North (Muhammadan).]

N

Nandy, the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar. (Presidency Landholders.)

Nasarullah, Nawabzada K., Parliamentary Secretary. [Brahmanbaria South (Muhammadan).]

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Nausher Ali, Mr. Syed. [Jessore Sadar (Muhammadan).]

Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E. [Calcutta North (Muhammadan).]

Nooruddin, Mr. K. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Municipal (Muhammadan).]

Norton, Mr. H. R. (Calcutta Trades Association.)

P

Pain, Mr. Barada Prosanna. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Municipal (General).]

Patton, Mr. W. C. [Darjeeling (European).]

Paul, Sir Hari Sankar. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)

Pottinger, Mr. G. U. [Chittagong Division (European).]

Pramanik, Mr. Tarinicharan. [Malda (General).]

R

Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. M. L. [Rajshahi Central (Muhammadan).]

Raikut, the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb. [Jalpaiguri *cum* Siliguri (General).]

Rajibuddin Tarafdar, Maulvi. [Bogra East (Muhammadan).]

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Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr. [Dacca South Central (Muhammadan).]

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Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy. [Dacca East (General).]

Roy, Mr. Kamalkrishna. [Bankura East (General).]

Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar. [Dacca West (General).]

Roy, Mr. Kishori Pati. [Jhargram *cum* Ghatal (General).]

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Roy, Mr. Patiram. [Khulna (General).]

Roy, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar. (Rajshahi Landholders.)

S

Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr. [Bakarganj South (Muhammadan).]

Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji. [Rangpur North (Muhammadan).]

Sahabe Alum, Mr. Syed. [Dacca Central (Muhammadan).]

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Sanaullah, Dr. [Chittagong North-East (Muhammadan).]

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Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar. [Murshidabad (General).]

Sarker, Babu Madhusudan. [Bogra *cum* Pabna (General).]

Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra. [Dacca East (General).]

Sen, Mr. Dhirendra Nath. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)

Sen, Rai Bahadur Jogesh Chandra. [24-Parganas South-East (General).]

Sen, Babu Nagendra Nath. [Khulna (General).]

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Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr. [Gopalganj (Muhammadan).]

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Sinha, Srijut Manindra Bhusan. [Bankura West (General).]

Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda. [Bengal Dooars (Western) Tea Garden Labour.]

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Speller, Mr. J. H. [Calcutta and Suburbs (European).]

Stark, Mr. A. F. [Calcutta and Suburbs (European).]

Steven, Mr. J. W. R. [Dacca (European).]

Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. [24-Parganas Municipal (Muhammadan).]

Sur, Mr. Harendra Kumar. [Noakhali (General).]

T

Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr. [Faridpur West (Muhammadan.)]
Tapuriah, Rai Bahadur Moongtu Lall. (Marwari Association.)
Thakur, Mr. Promatha Ranjan. [Faridpur (General).]
Tofel Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi Haji. [Bhola South (Muhammadan).]

W

Waliur Rahman, Maulvi. [Jessore East (Muhammadan).]
Walker, Mr. J. R. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Walker, Mr. W. A. M. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)
Whitehead, Mr. R. B. (Indian Mining Association.)
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

Y

Yousuf Mirza. [24-Parganas Central (Muhammadan).]
Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr. [Faridpur East (Muhammadan).]

Z

Zahur Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi. [Malda North (Muhammadan).]
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A. [Hooghly *cum* Serampore (Registered Factories) Labour.]

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS

(Official Report of the Twelfth Session.)

Volume LXI.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 27th November, 1941, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sir MUHAMMAD AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E., Khan Bahadur) in the Chair, 8 Hon'ble Ministers and 212 members.

Chief Minister's Statement.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, before you take up the business before the House may I, with your leave and the leave of the House, make a short statement? As the House is well aware, this session of the Assembly was called primarily for the purpose of discussing the provisions of the Secondary Education Bill. We were trying when we last met to have an agreed settlement regarding the Bill itself. As the House is also aware, our attempts at an agreed settlement were very satisfactory and it was hoped that with a little more effort we would be able to produce an agreed Bill. Unfortunately however the intervention of the holidays and the absence of many members of the Committee prevented us from continuing our deliberations and I am sorry to say that no further progress has been made. We propose to resume our labours and for that purpose some time will be necessary. I therefore pray that you may be pleased to adjourn the House for a few days in order to enable us to carry on our work.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand that the matter has been discussed between the leaders of different parties who have no objection. The House stands adjourned till 4 p.m. (Bengal time) on the 8th December, 1941.

Adjournment.

Accordingly the House was adjourned at 4-6 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Monday, the 8th December, 1941, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 8th December, 1941, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sir MUHAMMAD AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E., Khan Bahadur) in the Chair and 227 members.

Adjournment of the House on account of the death of the Deputy Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Members of the Assembly, I have the melancholy duty to convey the most mournful news of the sad and tragic death of our Deputy Speaker, and I propose that references be made to-morrow.

I adjourn the House till 4 p.m. (Bengal time) to-morrow.

Adjournment.

The House was accordingly adjourned till 4 p.m. (Bengal time) on Tuesday, the 9th December, 1941, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 9th December, 1941, at 4 p.m.

Present:

MR. SPEAKER (the Hon'ble Sir MUHAMMAD AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E., Khan Bahadur) in the Chair and 219 members.

Affirmation of Allegiance.

The following gentleman made an affirmation of his allegiance to the Crown:—

Mr. Dhirendra Nath Sen (elected by the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce).

Obituary.

Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, on behalf of the Progressive Coalition Party of which I have the honour and the privilege to be the Leader, I wish to express our grief and sorrow at the sudden demise of our late Deputy Speaker Mr. Ashrafali. The deceased belonged to one of the most renowned aristocratic families of North Bengal and his ancestors had settled down at Natore in the district of Rajshahi during the reign of the Emperor Shahjahan of Delhi. The family has been in receipt of *jagirs* from the Moghul Emperors and many members of the family distinguished themselves in various responsible positions in public life. The deceased himself was a member of the English Bar and officiated for some time as Deputy Legal Remembrancer in the High Court. We, who have known him in this House, can bear unmistakable testimony to his courteous manners, his lovable disposition and I can truly say that he was a gentleman in the best sense of the term. Our grief is all the more poignant that his death was sudden and quite unexpected. Our sympathies go to the bereaved family which received a shock from which it will never recover on account of the death of Mr. Ashrafali's son a few months ago. We pray for the soul of the deceased and we hope that God Almighty will give the family consolation at this hour of their grief and sorrow.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, on behalf of the Muslim League Party I desire to associate myself with the words of condolence which have just now fallen from the lips of our late Leader.

Sir, the party had the privilege of including the Deputy Speaker as one of its members and our grief is all the more poignant that at the present moment when we needed his presence so greatly he should have passed away from our midst. Sir, almost his last words uttered in our presence were dramatic enough to keep his memory green in our minds for a long time to come. His unassuming manners, his courtesy will always be remembered by us and we shall always think of him as a great gentleman who was on the best of terms with everyone and never did harm to anyone. Sir, we deeply mourn his loss and convey our sincerest condolences to his bereaved family.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Sir, on behalf of the Bengal Congress Parliamentary Party I associate myself with the words spoken by the Hon'ble Leader of the Progressive Coalition Party. Mr. Ashrafali by his innate goodness, his gentleness and his courtesy endeared himself so much to all sections of this House that we feel his loss as a personal loss. We all know, Sir, that the sudden and untimely death of his only son was an overwhelming shock to him and it had told on his health, but none of us was prepared for his sudden and untimely death. If I were to sum up the impression that he has left in our mind I would repeat what has been said by the previous speakers that he was a gentleman in the full sense of the term, and, Sir, that is no small praise for a man who has been in politics for very many years.

Sir, once more I and my friends on this side of the House associate ourselves with the words which have been uttered by the previous speakers in appreciation of the services rendered to the House by the late Deputy Speaker.

Mr. DAVID HENDRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the European Party I wish to express our sorrow at the passing of the late Deputy Speaker. We always looked upon him as one of the finest types of Bengali gentlemen. His pleasant personality and kindly demeanour, I am sure, endeared him to all sections of this House. He did not always receive that courtesy from this House which we wish he could have had, but that only increases our sorrow that we can have no further opportunity of making amends therefor. We mourn his loss, Sir, and sympathise with his family.

Mr. C. GRIFFITHS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Anglo-Indians I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the various leaders of the different groups.

Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: Sir, on behalf of the Assembly Scheduled Castes Party we express our deep sorrow at the sudden demise of our late friend Mr. Ashrafali. Sir, he was a perfect gentleman with charming manners. He had no enemies and he endeared himself to all who came in contact with him. We were surprised to hear of the sudden loss of such a gentleman. Sir, it was in the hands of Providence and we all know that in the midst of life we are in death. We deeply mourn the loss of such a gentleman.

Mr. SPEAKER: Ladies and Gentlemen, before I place the resolution for your acceptance may I also in this connection express my deepest feeling at the tragic suddenness with which the death of the Deputy Speaker took place. It was only on Saturday morning at about 11 that he was with me for over an hour discussing several matters and little did anyone realise at that time that death was following him so soon. He was shattered beyond human conception by the death of his only son early this year when he stood in the position of posterity to one to whom he should have been his ancestor; yet all who knew him and saw him never found in him any outward expression by which we could judge the tragic agonies that he always felt within himself. You have all expressed your appreciation and I want wholeheartedly to associate myself with that. To me he had been more than a friend; I had personal contact with him for the last 25 years. When I first joined the Bar, we had him as the President of our District Association for the reason that he had some connection with our district. I had the honour of proposing him at the beginning of the New Constitution as the Deputy Speaker of this House, and in various ways I had personal contact with him for the last 25 years.

He has now gone beyond our human understanding and human confidence and I only pray that his soul may rest in eternal peace. Our sympathies go to the bereaved family and in doing so I speak not only on your behalf but on behalf of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Department officers and staff.

I hope, Ladies and Gentlemen, that you will kindly rise in your seats to signify your assent to a message of condolence being sent.

(Members rose in their seats.)

Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, Secretary will do the needful.

I have also to refer to the deaths of Mr. C. E. Buckland, C.I.E., and Sreejut Jogindra Chandra Chakraborty.

Mr. Buckland joined the Indian Civil Service in the year 1870 and having served in various capacities became senior member of the Board of Revenue. He was a member of the Legislative Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal from 1893 to 1897 and again from 1899 to 1904 when he retired. He was decorated for his meritorious work.

He belonged to a family that served Bengal for three generations successively. After his retirement he still kept himself in touch with India and helped many Indian students in England with his advice and guidance.

Sreejut Jogindra Chandra Chakraborty was elected a member of the old Bengal Legislative Council in 1923 and continued to be so till 1929 from the Dinajpur Non-Muhammadan Constituency. He was an eminent lawyer, a social worker and was intimately connected with many public activities not only in the district of Dinajpur but in the whole of Bengal. He was a well-known figure in the life of this province and a thorough gentleman commanding love, respect and admiration from all who knew him personally. His death is a great loss to Bengal.

I feel it is our duty to send our message of condolence to the bereaved families and I hope you will kindly rise in your seats to signify your assent.

(Members rose in their seats.)

Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen. Secretary will do the needful.

Point of Order.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. We have received this afternoon a list of business delineating certain subjects, but although we had received previously another list in which there were two important items of business, namely, the laying on the table of the Bengal Turbulent Areas Ordinance, 1941, and the motion disapproving the same, we do not find those two important items in the list of business to-day. I submit, Sir, that you had stood by us when we claimed that any ordinance that the Governor might in his individual judgment be pleased to issue should be placed before the Assembly as soon as the Assembly re-assembled, and Sir, you also had been pleased at that moment to give your opinion that even if the Ministry did not choose to place it for a number of days, it would be the business of your department to see that the ordinance was placed. Under the circumstances, I would most humbly request you to see that the ordinance is laid in accordance with the law and to permit us to discuss the ordinance because it is very much in force at the moment and we are anxious to disapprove of the same.

With these words, I submit, that a revised list of business be placed before the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: So far as the agenda is concerned, I think Dr. Sanyal has begun his task with a little misunderstanding of the

agenda itself. In fact, there is an item of business to-day, viz., "business remaining from the 8th December, 1941", which includes the two items referred to and therefore they are in the agenda.

So far as the question of laying the ordinance on the table is concerned, I shall make my position clear. If Government do not lay it on the table at the earliest opportunity, it is my duty to see that it is laid on the table by some means or other. Unfortunately, there is no existence of Government so far as the Ministry is concerned for the time being. Therefore it is only fair that till Government function I should give them an opportunity.

The House stands adjourned till 4 p.m on Friday

Adjournment.

Accordingly the House was adjourned at 4-15 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Friday the 12th December, 1941, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 12th December, 1941, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sir MUHAMMAD AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E., Khan Bahadur) in the Chair, 3 Hon'ble Ministers and 216 members.

Panel of Chairmen.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I proceed with to-day's business I have just to say this much that I shall nominate the panel of Chairmen after a few days after I know the definite line of party alignments.

Questions.

Mr. SPEAKER: I should like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister to the outstanding questions and answers now lying in the Assembly Department, and to know whether the present Government would stick to the replies already drafted and sent to this department or whether they would like to have an opportunity to re-examine the answers with a view to revising them, if necessary.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: If you will permit me to make a statement——

Mr. SPEAKER: That you can make after I dispose of the present item.

So far as the questions are concerned, I take it that you wish to look into them again. I will take necessary steps to send all the questions and answers to the respective departments concerned and I hope you will be pleased to see that the replies come back as quickly as possible.

Leave of absence of certain members.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do permit Mr. Pratul Chandra Ganguly, representing the East Bengal Municipal (General) Constituency, and Babu Jnanendra Chandra Majumdar, representing the Mymensingh East (General)

Constituenty, to be absent for the period from the 28th of July, 1941, to the 18th of September, 1941, and from the 27th of November, 1941, till the end of the present session for which they find they are unable to attend meetings of this Assembly.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Special Motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: As regards the special motion of which notice has been given by Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu, I have not yet received the consent of the department concerned.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I have seen the special motion which is proposed to be moved by my friend, Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu. I can say this that the Government of Bengal as at present constituted——

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: May we know the nature of the special motion?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not yet admitted. I want to know whether the Hon'ble Minister concerned has given his consent, for it cannot come before the House till he gives his consent.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: So far as the question of taking all necessary steps is concerned, from that point of view I consider that I can have no objection to this motion being moved in this House.

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion before the House is that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Bengal should take immediately all necessary steps to secure an early release of Sj. Sarat Chandra Bose who has been placed in detention.

I may at this stage sound a note of warning, if it is at all needed, to the mover of this motion that no criticism whatsoever as to the reasons for this arrest or no comment whatsoever on the action taken is within the jurisdiction of this House. The matter which concerns this House is confined only to the form in which the special motion has been tabled, namely, to request the Government to take steps. Why and under what circumstances the arrest was made are matters which are wholly beyond the scope of this motion.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Mr. Speaker, I move: this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Bengal should take immediately all necessary steps to secure an early release of Sj. Sarat Chandra Bose who has been placed in detention.

Sir, it is my melancholy duty to place before this Assembly this special motion for its consideration and acceptance. I quite realise that the warning you have given is opportune and timely, and I do not desire to go into all those matters which you have been pleased to indicate in your opening observations. To us it is a matter which is too deep for words. This motion on the face of it is extremely reasonable and proper. Sir, the blow has come with tremendous suddenness and it is difficult for us to recover from it so soon. I do not know if we can really recover from the seriousness of this blow until Sj. Sarat Chandra Bose again breathes the free air outside the prison bars. At the same time it is my duty, and I trust that the Assembly will take this view, that we can ask the newly-constituted Government of Bengal to take immediately all necessary steps to secure the early release of Sj. Sarat Chandra Bose. Various methods and various means are open to the Provincial Government to act in this particular matter; and I hope that the Government will not fail to take all those steps which they may consider open to them for the purpose of bringing about an immediate release of Sj. Sarat Chandra Bose.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Sir, I rise to support the motion on behalf of the Bengal Congress Parliamentary Party—the motion that has been moved by my friend, Mr Santosh Kumar Basu. I entirely agree with him that it is not necessary to make any speech about it. The wound is too fresh for us. For myself I feel overwhelmed with sorrow because after all we are not merely politicians, we are human beings, we are sons of mothers, husbands of wives and fathers of children. And in supporting this resolution I cannot help—I hope, Sir, you will forgive me and the House will forgive me, referring to a purely family matter—I cannot help thinking of the aged mother of Mr. Bose; one of her sons is away from her whose whereabouts are unknown, and to-day another son is clapped into jail. Sir, I am not mentioning these things to beg for mercy. I know that Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose has suffered many times for the love of his country, and that he is prepared to suffer more; his shoulders are broad enough. But, Sir, after all we are human beings and on an occasion like this it is impossible for us to forget the human side of the question.

I wholeheartedly support the resolution that has been moved by friend Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, I will not take very long. I think the matter is very simple and I wholeheartedly support the motion that has been moved. Sir, the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Home Minister of Bengal can legitimately request the Government of India to supply them with materials on which the action has been taken. I trust that the Government of India will have confidence in the Chief

Minister and the Home Minister and they will place the materials before them. If the Chief Minister is satisfied that the action is justified, then I trust he will ask the party to which Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose belonged to disown him. If, on the other hand, the party refuses to disown him, I think the duty of the Hon'ble Chief Minister is clear in that he should dissociate himself entirely from that party and remove that party from the coalition group.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: On a point of order, Sir. We deliberately desisted from referring to all these matters in pursuance of the directions that you were pleased to give. Now, Sir Nazimuddin has been proceeding on a purely hypothetical basis and has been proceeding to build up his arguments on slender basis of hypothesis which has no legs to stand upon. I hope, Sir, you will give him a timely warning not to proceed in that strain.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: On the other hand, Sir, I maintain that if the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Home Minister are not satisfied on the materials placed before them, the honour and loyalty to the gentleman with whom he had made an honourable pact demand that he should resign from the office he holds. (Cheers from Muslim League Benches.)

Mr. DAVID HENDRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very serious charge has been brought——(There were interruptions from Progressive Coalition Party Benches.)

Mr. SPEAKER: May I request that at least on an occasion like this members should know how to behave?

Mr. DAVID HENDRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very serious charge has been brought against a member of this House and I would suggest that the best line for Government to follow is to ask the reasons for his detention and that the materials supporting that action to be placed before them. You yourself, Sir, have ruled that there should be no contentious debate on this subject, and we agree that it would be wrong to enter into contentious argument this afternoon. We cannot support this resolution, however, and my view is that this Government cannot and should not go further than request the reasons for Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose's detention and the materials upon which such detention has been carried out.

(The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq rose to speak.)

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir,——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order please. I think you have accepted Mr. Fazlul Huq as your Leader and the Leader of your party should speak.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I had no desire——

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, may I rise on a point of information? May we know if this will finish the debate?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: There may be people who would like to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order please.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I had no desire to make any speech so far as this resolution is concerned, but one or two remarks of my very esteemed friend the ex-Home Minister of Bengal have compelled me to say just a few words. I can assure him that I am extremely grateful to him for pointing out to me the duties and responsibilities of a Home Minister. I am not yet a full-fledged Home Minister; I have not taken over charge yet. I will look up the records of the administration in Bengal, particularly in the Home Department, to find out how the Home Minister of Bengal has acted in the past on occasions like this. I am not at all original but an humble imitator. I can assure him that I will imitate him very closely. I will take inspiration from what he has left as a legacy for me and I feel quite sure that I will find in the archives of the Secretariat instructions to guide me on occasions like this.

Sir, so far as the party is concerned, I am sure they have got the fullest confidence that we will do our best to get orders of release for our friend Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose and the House is well aware that the arrest has been made under orders of the Government of India. We will approach the proper authorities not merely for information but also for taking proper steps so that he may be set at liberty.

Sir, I am glad that the demand contained in this resolution has been supported unanimously by all sections of the House and in this view of the case I may take it that the resolution will be accepted unanimously.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, are we to understand that the Chief Minister is going to follow the policy of the late Ministry?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order please.

The motion that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Bengal should take immediately all necessary steps to secure the early release of Sj. Sarat Chandra Bose who has been placed in detention, was then put and agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is one matter about which I wish to enquire and that is about the nature of the business that we will have to do. I do not think it would be possible to take up much of the legislative work this session, but there are one or two matters which are very important, namely, laying of a certain Ordinance on the table and I would like to know the earliest date on which it would be possible for Government to lay the Ordinance on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, as the House is aware, I have been asked to form a new Cabinet, I have consented to do so, but I have not had time enough to complete my task. Unless the Cabinet is complete it is not possible for me to say anything because the Cabinet as a whole must take responsibility in this matter. I hope to be able to complete my Cabinet by Monday and I request you, Sir, for an adjournment so that when the complete Cabinet meets I promise we will lay this Ordinance on the table on that date.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to know from the Leader of the Opposition as to whether he has any objection to the procedure which has been suggested by Mr. Fazlul Huq, namely, adjournment till, say, Monday or Tuesday.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, we have no objection if the House is adjourned till Monday

Mr. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 4 p.m. (Bengal time) on Tuesday next.

Adjournment.

Accordingly the House was adjourned at 4-20 p.m. till 4 p.m. (Bengal time) on Tuesday, the 16th December, 1941, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 16th December, 1941, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sir MUHAMMAD AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E., Khan Bahadur) in the Chair, 2 Hon'ble Ministers and 203 members

Formation of the Ministry.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would ask the Chief Minister if the Ministry has now been completed.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, the final selection of Ministers has been made and approved by His Excellency. I understand that a *communiqué* is being issued. The Ministers will be sworn in to-morrow.

(Some members in the Opposition Benches who could not hear the Hon'ble Chief Minister wanted to know what he had said.)

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chief Minister has said that the final selection of Ministers has been made and approved by His Excellency and that the oath-taking ceremony would take place to-morrow.

If there is no objection, the Chief Minister can at least give the names of the Ministers.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, the position is this The names of Ministers were submitted by the Chief Minister and approved by His Excellency, but the convention is that unless a *communiqué* is issued under orders of His Excellency the names should not be disclosed. I think that by this time a *communiqué* is already out or will be out shortly. Orders were issued at 12 o'clock to communicate the names of Ministers.

Bengal Turbulent Areas Ordinance, 1941.

Mr. SPEAKER: In those circumstances the only business is to lay the Ordinance on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, under section 88(*2*) (*a*) of the Government of India Act, 1935, I beg to lay the Bengal Turbulent Areas Ordinance, 1941, on the table.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Ordinance is now laid on the table.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, could the Ordinance be discussed to-day?

Mr. SPEAKER: No. If there is any motion it will be taken up to-morrow.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, there is a Special Motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: I find that there is a Special Motion of which notice has been given. I have taken necessary steps to communicate and get the necessary consent of the parties concerned. If the consent comes, then the motion will be taken up to-morrow. If the consent does not come, the matter stands there. I may give an idea to the members of the House as to the progress of our work day to day. My idea is that subject to such exigencies as might transpire later on, as the Ordinance has been laid on the table, any resolution relating to the Ordinance, if there be any, will be discussed and taken up to-morrow, and in the rest of the time any Special Motion, if admitted, may be taken up. If there is any other motion regarding confidence or non-confidence in the Ministry, I propose to take up the matter to-morrow, and I hope that the members will decide upon their own action by that time. In case there is any such motion and it is admitted by the House, the motion will be taken up for the purpose of admission to-morrow, but, if admitted, the discussion will proceed from Friday. I do not wish to put it off for a long time unless it is the desire of the different sections of the House.

Short-notice questions.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Sir, I have got one question to ask. I gave notice of two short-notice questions. May I draw your attention——

Mr. SPEAKER: If you take that attitude, I refuse to reply. I am telling you that as soon as the reply comes it will be placed on the table.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Sir, I draw your attention to rule 24 of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules. The question has been returned to me directing my attention to rule 24. There, Sir, so far as I could go through the rule I understand that the Speaker in his discretion will ask for the consent of Government and not the member who gives notice of the question.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Mahmood, you should try to be a little familiar with the procedure. The question has not been sent to you for your consent, but merely the information has been communicated to you that it has been sent to the department concerned for consent.

Business on Friday.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: You are fixing Friday, but I would like to say that Friday is generally reserved for non-official business. On Friday we should like to have non-official resolutions.

Mr. SPEAKER: I feel that all urgent matters should be disposed of first. As regards the other matters, if there is any real business and if it is the desire of the House, we can consider taking them up on Monday. In any case we will decide that to-morrow. I feel that in this session we cannot do much work. For the time being the procedure is that in case there is a non-confidence motion which is admitted, it will be taken up on Friday.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 4-7 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Wednesday, the 17th December, 1941, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 17th December, 1941, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sir MUHAMMAD AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E., Khan Bahadur) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 186 members.

Short-notice question.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, may we know whether any questions are going to be answered to-day?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think, there is only one short-notice question.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will that be answered to-day?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Home Minister be pleased to state whether Government have made any representation to the Government of India regarding the release of Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the representation?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any attempt has been made or is being made to find out the truth or otherwise of the statement contained in the Government of India's communiqué issued in connection with the arrest of Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) The proceedings of this House will be forwarded to the proper authorities in due course.

(*b*) This has to await the orders of the Cabinet.

(*c*) No.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government will add any of their own recommendations to the representation which is going to be sent to the Government of India or will send only as a formal and normal course the proceedings of this House?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: What the Government will do will have to be decided by the Government itself. That means that it would have to await the decision of the Cabinet.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Has no Cabinet yet met and taken a decision on the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The matter will be considered by Government, but it is not for me to say what the decision of the Cabinet will be.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI. When does the Hon'ble the Chief Minister think the Government will be constituted and this matter proceeded with?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am not a prophet and I cannot foretell events.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Does not the Government consider the matter to be very urgent in view of the fact that Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose is already under detention and if his release is to be obtained it must be done as early as possible?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That is for the Government to answer.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand "Government" means the Cabinet as a whole, and therefore what the Government will or will not do, there must be somebody to answer.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That can be done only after the Cabinet has met and taken a decision. I undertake to communicate to the House the decision of the Government on relevant matters.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Does the Hon'ble the Chief Minister mean to say that the Government does not function until the Cabinet meets?

Mr. SPEAKER: All I say is that that question does not arise out of the main question. The question whether Government is functioning or is not functioning is a question of which you must give a fresh notice.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: When does the Government expect the Cabinet to meet and take a decision on the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: When the Cabinet meets, decision will be taken on the matter.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, my question has not been answered. I want to know when the Cabinet is expected to meet.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The Cabinet meets when there is enough business to do and on the consent of His Excellency the Governor. It is not possible for me therefore to say when the Cabinet will meet.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government do not consider it so very urgent that they should meet immediately?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a question of opinion.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, we were told in the House that by Tuesday everything would be sifted. That day has passed. Now, will the Hon'ble the Chief Minister kindly tell us when he will take this matter up?

Mr. SPEAKER: The first part of the question does not arise.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, I am new to this sort of question. I look up to you for help and guidance.

Mr. SPEAKER: There has been a little deviation on both sides. I feel that proper supplementary questions to this question would be as to whether the Cabinet or the Government has come to a decision on the matter and, if not, when will the Government come to a decision?

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: We have already put that question, to which the Hon'ble Minister replies that the Cabinet will meet when there is sufficient business before the Cabinet. Our question is whether the Hon'ble the Chief Minister considers this business to be so important as to be taken up immediately?

(No answer.)

The Bengal Turbulent Areas Ordinance, 1941.

(On Mr. Speaker calling out the names of the members who tabled the resolution disapproving the Bengal Turbulent Areas Ordinance, 1941, no one stood up to move the resolution which was accordingly passed over as not moved.)

Special Motion.

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: May I know, Sir, what has happened to the special motion for the release of Allama Mushrequi?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have not yet received the consent of the Hon'ble Minister concerned.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, I submit that on the last occasion when a resolution in connection with the release of Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose was under discussion the consent of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister was obtained then and there and he was very good to give it. We hope that the Hon'ble the Chief Minister will be equally generous and magnanimous to give his consent readily to discuss this question of the release of Allama Mushrequi.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have not yet received the consent and therefore the question does not arise. If the House so desires, I am quite prepared to make an enquiry from the Home Minister as to whether he is prepared and when he is prepared to take up the matter. I can ask him the question provided there is no debate on this point.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, the matter is of great public importance and I am, therefore, prepared to make a statement

The resolution does not set out the reasons for which it has been demanded that Allama Mushrequi should be set at liberty. I take it, however, that the Allama is in very bad health—rather is in a dangerous condition—and that it is necessary that he should be set at liberty as early as possible. Now, Sir, I am myself, a Khaksar at heart. (Cries of "hear", "hear" and interruption from the Opposition Benches.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I have allowed the statement to be made and it should be allowed.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, we appreciate the statement.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I knew there will be an outburst and I purposely and deliberately made that statement.

Now, Sir, coming to the specific point, I have not the slightest desire to withhold consent, but if consent is given there will necessarily be a debate and it is necessary for us to find out what are the reasons for which and what is the Government which actually passed orders for the arrest of the Maulana. The Government of Bengal, as the late Home Minister is aware, has had nothing to do with the arrest or the detention of Allama Mushrequi. Besides, we have got to find out where he is confined, what is the present state of his health and other matters relevant to the question of his release. Sir, we have been making enquiries and it may be that at the very earliest opportunity—it may be to-morrow or the day after—we may be able to find out specific information on these points. When information is received we will consider in Cabinet and I have not the slightest doubt that consent will be given, but, as at present advised, at the present moment I have not got materials on which I can give an answer.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next item is the Bengal Secondary Education Bill. I am informed, there is no desire to proceed with it.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: No, Sir.

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, what has happened to the Secondary Education Bill?

Mr. SPEAKER: Government is not proceeding with the Bill.

There is no other business to-day. The House stands adjourned till 4 p.m. to-morrow.

Adjournment.

The House was accordingly adjourned at 4-12 p.m. till 4 p.m. (Bengal time) on Thursday, the 18th December, 1941, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 18th December, 1941, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sir MUHAMMAD AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E., Khan Bahadur) in the Chair, 6 Hon'ble Ministers and 195 members.

Non-official business.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we understand that there is a likelihood of the House being prorogued to-day. In that case non-official members will lose their right of having any business. In view of the fact that you have always upheld the privileges of members, I hope you will consider the case of members of the Opposition when they get an opportunity of introducing non-official business. I therefore hope that instead of proroguing the House you will give us a chance——

Mr. SPEAKER: It is absolutely beyond me. All I say is that I will certainly represent to Government that at the next session they may give more time in order to discuss non-official business. It was definitely understood that this session would continue up to the 18th, and in fact on an enquiry I found that the business of the House was fixed up to the 18th and no more.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I raised the question the other day and you gave us an assurance that you will consider this question.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not for me to say anything.

Prorogation.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor that the Assembly do stand prorogued.

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